British Waterways
Dyfrffyrdd Prydain

WATERWAYS FOR WALES

IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATERWAYS OF WALES

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Foreword by British Waterways' Chief Executive Robin Evans

Waterways for Wales begins the consultation process that will bring interested parties together to develop a 'made in Wales' plan for the waterways. That plan will provide a strategic framework and set out the necessary actions to help improve the quality of life in Wales through:

- Stimulating economic regeneration
- Acting as a catalyst for rural recovery
- Developing sustainable living
- Promoting the vitality of Welsh cultural heritage
- Promoting Wales in the wider world.

We are grateful for the support and encouragement of Sue Essex AM, Minister for Environment who suggested that we undertake this task. We are also grateful for the active support of many Assembly members who have encouraged us and, in particular, the Members of the All Party Group on Waterways.

The care and development of waterways and water spaces spans the remit of many agencies in Wales. Their use and potential for development affects the interests of different communities. Development must be sensitive to their needs and to the environment. It has been clear to many of us that the potential of the waterways for good can only be unlocked if all those with a role to play work together to achieve a common vision.

The *Waterways for Wales* consultation provides an opportunity to develop that vision and to get waterways on the national agenda. I strongly urge everyone who owns, cares for or has an interest in Welsh waterways, or any interest in the development of Wales' economy, culture and communities to participate in the consultation process.

Robin Evans
Chief Executive
British Waterways

1.1 Introduction

Wherever they run, navigable canals and rivers are a catalyst for the economic evolution of Wales. They are an intrinsic part of Wales' past and future success and they lie at the heart of Welsh cultural heritage. In addition, Wales has significant assets represented by its extensive inshore waters, ports, harbours and marinas and natural and man-made lakes.

Our waterways and waterspaces (referred to collectively as 'waterways' for brevity after this) are a haven for wildlife, an important landscape feature, a legacy from the industrial revolution and a significant national tourism asset. They have a modern relevance as a resource for local communities for recreation, education and health.

Waterways can help improve the quality of life in Wales. They provide a focus for activity. They link other assets and form corridors of opportunity throughout Wales.

Waterways can help improve the quality of life in Wales in many ways. Where partners work together, waterways can make a significant contribution in the following areas of relevance to Wales:

- Economic regeneration
- Rural recovery
- Sustainable living
- Vitality of Welsh cultural heritage
- Wales in the wider world.

To see the full benefits of the plan realised, partnership working is essential involving the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG), Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs), other public bodies such as Local Authorities and British Waterways and the private and voluntary sectors.

1.2 Purpose

This document has been produced by British Waterways at the suggestion of the Welsh Assembly Minister for Environment, Sue Essex AM.

Waterways for Wales sets out a strategic approach to the revitalisation of the waterways of Wales aiming to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life.

The purpose of *Waterways for Wales* is to invite views on this strategic approach and, in particular, to the consultation questions set out in Section 6. The next step will be to use these contributions to develop a made in Wales plan for the waterways which has wide support across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors.

1.3 Main themes

1.3.1 Economic regeneration

Our waterways were the arteries of industrialisation and the route to trade and prosperity in the 19th century. The power of waterways to act as a catalyst and focus for regeneration and create lasting jobs and wealth has been demonstrated throughout Britain and internationally. Economic regeneration focused the waterways is the engine for radical and sustainable change – enabling many of the other projects that produce social and environmental improvements.

Waterways can help economic regeneration through strategic schemes to restore, renew and develop our canals and other waterspaces. This generates jobs and creates better places to live and work – so attracting people and business. Economic activity around our docks and other waterspaces can be enhanced by skilled management to make them alive and attractive for work and play.

1.3.2 Rural recovery

Our canals and rivers link urban and rural communities. The waterway is a part of a rural community's past having served industry and agriculture. It now offers a modern role as focus for leisure and tourism.

Waterways can contribute to rural revival by being a focus for economic activity through regeneration, development and tourism. They can help play a part in achieving sustainable development through:

- the new use of old canal and agricultural buildings
- land management initiatives
- new tourism facilities and promotion
- providing new training opportunities for work
- providing long term jobs
- being a reservoir to help keep alive some key rural skills such as hedge laying.

1.3.3 Sustainable living

Our activities should not prejudice our children's future or that of the places where they live and work. Waterways are biodiversity and history corridors. They are a place to visit, to relax, to recreate, to improve your mental and physical health, to learn and to play. They do not just help create better places to live; they also create a more attractive environment for work and business.

We can help people live in a more sustainable way by using waterways to give to everyone, regardless of age or ability, greater access to the countryside or green open spaces in cities. Our waterways have a significant part to play in increasing and enhancing biodiversity. They also are vehicle free routes for walking and cycling and have good links with other modes of transport.

1.3.4 Cultural heritage vitality

Waterways are an intrinsic part of Wales' past and future success. They are a part of its landscape, its social, industrial and agricultural history. Waterways link into wider corridors and the communities that surround them. Waterways are as relevant to Welsh cultural heritage now as in the past.

Our waterways contain some of Wales' great national icons such as the Pontcysyllte and Chirk Aqueducts and are linked to the World Heritage Site at Blaenavon. These are world-class assets.

Our waterways can provide a focus for the people of Wales and those outside to learn and appreciate more of the cultural vitality of Wales.

Securing the future of our ancient and historical monuments and interpreting them in context helps us and visitors to Wales understand their significance and better appreciate our history. Using the waterways as a whole as an educational resource starts a virtuous circle of awareness and future care.

1.3.5 Wales in the wider world

Our waterways are international quality assets. They can help raise the profile of Wales across the world by enhancing our reputation and attracting international tourism. They have the potential to represent the best of Wales' green and cultural tourism assets and could generate year-round income.

The work and resources needed to renew Wales' waterways is significant. However, the proposed projects are models of sustainable development that elsewhere have been shown to have the potential to attract international funding. *Waterways for Wales* offers a vision that Wales could be an exemplar for others, by showing what it is possible to do with imagination, partnership and hard work.

The waterways in Wales do not exist in a policy vacuum. They need to be developed to respond to the needs of Wales as the main themes in Section 1.3 set out. The model projects in this document are geared to assist with the delivery of the *Plan for Wales* and the other strategies and plans of the Welsh Assembly Government and Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies.

This section lists some of the important policies and plans relevant to the waterways at the time of writing. It is not comprehensive and consultees are encouraged to describe other relevant policies and plans in their responses.

Appendix 1 contains a description of the more detailed provisions with cross-references to waterway related projects that could help to deliver the policy aims or plan actions.

2.1 National Assembly for Wales

2.1.1 Plan for Wales and Learning to Live Differently

Waterways for Wales applies the principles contained within these two publications of:

- Sustainable development – acting now for the future
- Social Inclusion – attacking poverty
- Equal opportunities – achieving equality in all we do.

2.1.2 A Winning Wales

Waterways for Wales will help towards the achievement of targets in the National Economic Development Strategy – *A Winning Wales*. The strategic projects in particular will assist in catalysing the areas around them to get more people into jobs and reduce levels of economic inactivity. Rural projects will help to develop the green economy and bring growth and opportunity to smaller communities.

2.1.3 Rural Development Plan

As noted above, our waterways link Wales' urban and rural areas. The Montgomery Canal is a rural canal; other canals link urban and rural areas. The waterways are well placed to play a part in the sustainable development of rural areas. In particular, they can help meet some key priorities in the Rural Development Plan.

2.1.4 Creative future

Appropriately, the *Culture and the economy* section of *Creative Future* was illustrated with a picture of the Llangollen Canal. Wales' waterways are significant cultural assets in their own right and the Llangollen Canal is adjacent to the site of the *Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod*. They can also be used to generate economic advantage to help sustain them. The Cultural Strategy observes that Wales needs to extract cultural value from wide range of public and private expenditure. Waterways can help achieve the objectives in the strategy.

2.2 Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies

2.2.1 Wales Tourist Board

Our waterways are undoubted tourism assets already. However, the contribution they can make can be enhanced by developing new and existing tourism products and services, discovering new synergies between waterways, tourism and rural development initiatives and by strategic marketing of the sector and its tourism products.

As cultural assets, waterways have the ability to contribute to the achievement of the WTB's Cultural Tourism Strategy aims.

2.2.2 Welsh Development Agency

The case for waterways as agents for economic regeneration is well known and well made. Waterways can contribute to the WDA's sustainable development strategy and corporate plan targets.

2.2.3 Countryside Council for Wales

Waterways have a key role in assisting The Countryside Council for Wales and partners (such as the Environment Agency Wales) achieve a better environment in Wales, better known, valued and visited. In particular the projects can contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives set out in *A Better Wales – The Natural Environment of Wales in 2010*.

2.2.4 Environment Agency

Waterways have a key role in assisting the Environment Agency Wales achieve a better environment in Wales. They have specific contributions to make in assisting the Agency in the following areas:

- Promotion of sustainable development
- Water quality and conservation
- Catchment flood management
- Promotion of recreation
- Water management strategy

2.2.5 Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments

It is in the nature of waterways that were at the heart of the industrial revolution that they should have associated with them buildings of historic interest. British Waterways alone manages 169 scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings within Wales. A proactive approach to Wales' waterways can ensure a sustainable future for these buildings and ensure the people of Wales and tourists have access to them and can appreciate them. In addition there are synergistic tourism and economic benefits to be gained by linking these buildings and sites in the care of other bodies.

3.1 Overview

The strategic national projects are essential to effectively transform the corridors of the waterways of Wales. The strategic projects provide a critical mass and maximise the multiplier effects of individual local and regional schemes.

The tourism activity in Section 3.2 is needed to maximise the contribution of existing resources and to capitalise on the success of both the strategic and local projects to ensure the tourism benefits are realised in full.

The web site project in Section 3.3 will support the tourism activity. It will also be an important education, recreation and cultural resource. Use of the site will provide a lasting stimulus for the care, appreciation and future care and conservation of the waterways. The potential for significant new benefits has increased following major investments by both the Wales Tourist Board and British Waterways in e-commerce and information initiatives.

The essence of the major capital projects is of regeneration through restoration and renewal. They involve considerable partnership working and will require an extensive portfolio of funding to make them happen.

The projects described have been chosen from British Waterways' experience in the field. Additional or alternative project ideas are welcomed as part of the consultation. In particular, ideas for projects from those interested in other waterways and waterspaces would ensure future plans cover all of Wales.

3.2 Waterways for Wales tourism promotion

Project description

To promote the waterways and waterspaces of Wales as an entity. To promote them to a UK and international audience. Wales' waterways and waterspaces are attractive to tourists in a number of ways, for example in the following areas:

- Culture and Heritage tourism
  - Industrial
  - Social
  - Working and living
  - Ancient Monuments
  - World Heritage Sites
  - Long distance trails
- Green/environmental
  - Wildlife
  - Birdwatching
  - Rare plants
- Activity tourism
  - Sailing/boating/canoeing
  - Walking
  - Angling
  - Cycling
  - Associated tourism products (e.g. horse riding)
- Restoring – the fastest way of slowing down

Project outputs

- A coordinated partnership to create a strategy for the development and improvement of waterways and associated tourism products and services
- Coordinated and strategic marketing communications to increase visitor awareness, numbers and spend within Wales

The precise scope and targets of the campaign will be developed by the partners in consultation.

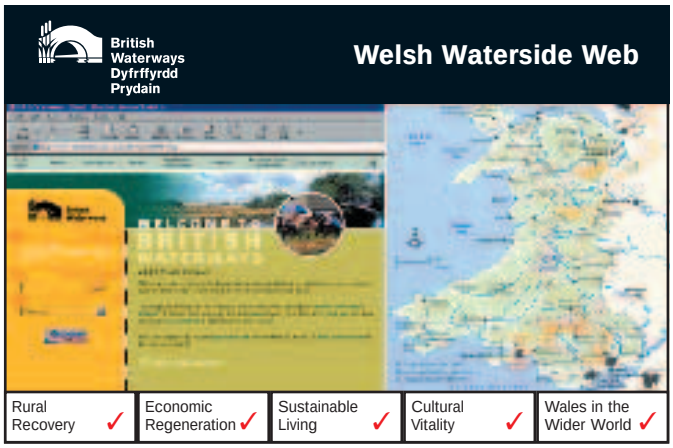
Potential project partners

National Assembly for Wales
Wales Tourist Board
Regional Tourism Partnerships
Welsh Development Agency
Local Authorities
Private Sector Tourism Operators
British Waterways

Funding required

To be determined

3.3 Waterways for Wales web site



Project description

To produce a web site in Welsh and English to:

- promote Wales' waterways and waterspaces
- give intellectual access to the waterways for leisure and learning
- act as a resource for local communities to promote themselves
- provide a platform for responses to waterways tourism marketing
- encourage close links with lifelong learning and community regeneration

The project will be reinforced by the partners' existing e-commerce and new media activity, for example British Waterways' proposed new consumer portal (Waterscape) and Wales Tourist Board's Destination Management System (DMS).

Project outputs

- Increased national and international awareness and understanding of our waterways and waterspaces
- Increased visitor numbers
- Resource for education and lifelong learning
- Greater community ownership of Welsh waterways
- Opportunity to raise funding through donations and advertising
- Opportunities for tourism e-commerce

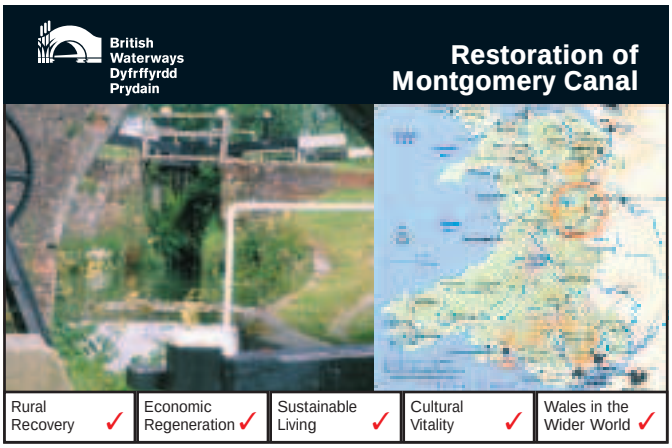
Potential project partners

National Assembly for Wales
Wales Tourist Board
Regional Tourism Partnerships
Welsh Development Agency
Local Authorities
Private sector tourism operators
British Waterways

Funding required

£250,000

3.4 Project summaries



3.4.1 Montgomery Canal

Project background

- Full restoration of the canal from Frankton Locks, Shropshire to Freestone Lock near Newtown, Powys is estimated to cost £60 million
- Phase I (£35m) restores navigation as far as Refail, north of the original terminus in Newtown, Powys
- Phase 2 (£25m) completes full restoration to Freestone Lock with the potential for extension into Newtown itself
- A Conservation Management Strategy for the sustainable canal restoration is currently in preparation and will be completed in 2003
- Partnerships with Local Authorities, environmental organisations and the voluntary sector are already in place
- Further partnerships with local communities and other interested parties are being developed

Project outputs

- The restoration will benefit the wider corridor in the following ways: economic regeneration, environment, education, leisure & tourism, transport, marketing, heritage, culture
- Economic outputs on full restoration:
  - 1 million additional visitor days
  - Additional visitor spend £2.5 million a year
  - Creates over 100 jobs

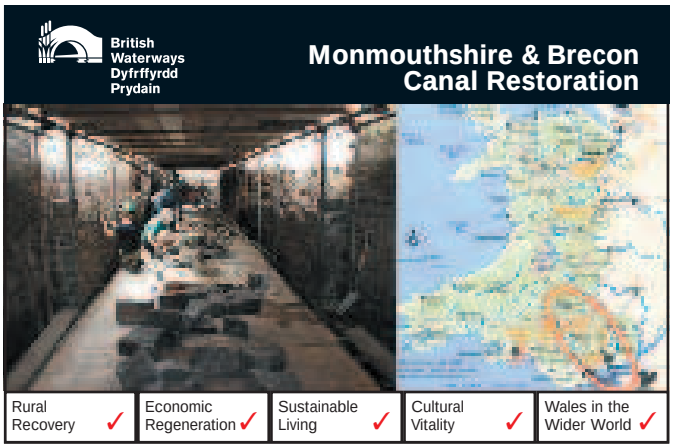
Partners - 'Montgomery Canal Partnership'

Powys County Council
Shropshire County Council
Oswestry Borough Council
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust
Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Countryside Council for Wales
English Nature
English Heritage
Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust
Shropshire Union Canal Society
British Waterways
Inland Waterways Association

Funding required

Mixed funding being sought from: Europe, Local Authorities, National Assembly for Wales, Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies, Welsh Development Agency, New Opportunities Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, The Waterways Trust, other funders in England and voluntary sector partners.

3.4.2 Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal



Project description

- To restore navigation from Brecon to Newport
- Develop a major marina at Crindau, Newport
- Make new channel and sea lock into the River Usk
- Secure the future of the Crumlin Branch
- Interpret the heritage and environment of the canal
- Promote links with the associated World Heritage Site at Blaenavon
- Development costs £37 million over 5 years

Project outputs

- Over 150 new permanent jobs created, 100 jobs safeguarded
- 29 construction jobs and 72 training placements created
- Over £3 million each year gross visitor expenditure
- £12 million private sector investment attracted, creating 18 new businesses
- Extends physical and intellectual access to the resource to every social group
- Important international environment and heritage asset secured

Partners

Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Torfaen Councils

Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Trust

British Waterways

Funding

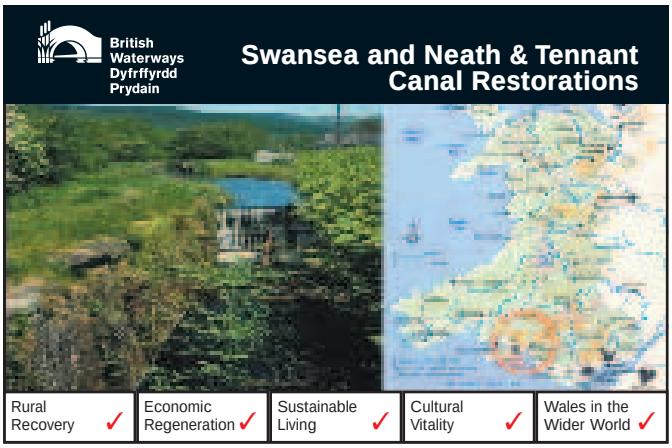
Portfolio being sought from partners and:

ERDF

Heritage Lottery Fund

National Assembly and Assembly Sponsored Bodies

3.4.3 Swansea, Neath & Tennant Canal



Project description

This project will restore the canals to navigation between Briton Ferry, Neath, Glynneath, Swansea and Ystalyfera creating a waterway of some 35 miles length. The length will allow a leisurely week or energetic short break holiday to be taken.

WS Atkins have finalised a feasibility study. They have recommended that a combined flood alleviation and restoration project be developed at the ten arch Aberdulais Aqueduct, where increased flood capacity and defence works could go hand in hand with stabilising and restoring the structure and the adjacent lock. This is the only significant structural obstacle to reopening about ten miles of canal in the Vale of Neath.

The indicative costs are of the order of £55 million for this scheme. These costs are at this stage uncertain and a number of assumptions and contingencies are built in. If ongoing adjacent developments embraced the waterways, costs could be reduced significantly and funding found as part of these developments.

Project outputs

- 30-50% of construction costs could be spent in local economy
- £4-5 million each year projected increased tourism spend
- 10-20% increased land development value in canal corridor
- Community and training benefits in using trainee and volunteer workers
- Reopening of an important part of the industrial evolution of Wales

Potential project partners

British Waterways
Swansea City Council
Neath and Port Talbot Borough Council
Welsh Development Agency
Local canal societies
Neath, Tennant Canal Navigation Companies

Funding required

Funding for feasibility study raised. Portfolio of funding for restoration to be developed.

4.1 Overview

These model projects will help realise many of the potential benefits of the strategic projects – particularly in social and environmental areas. They also contribute towards elements of regional and local sustainable development strategies. They have an impact in the following areas:

- Community Regeneration
- Access for All
- Environmental Improvement
- Cultural Tourism
- Lifelong Learning

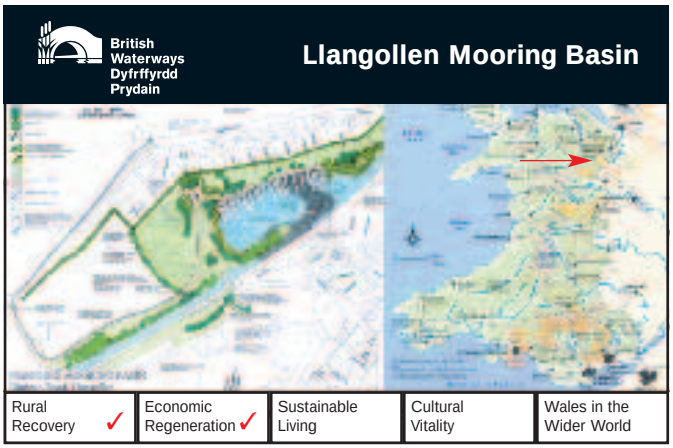
What appear below are projects that have been completed or are in progress for illustration, and others that are planned awaiting funding or are preliminary ideas.

The projects described have been chosen from British Waterways' experience in the field. Additional or alternative project ideas are welcomed as part of the consultation. In particular, ideas for projects from those interested in other waterways and waterspaces would ensure future plans cover all of Wales.

4.2 Detailed project summaries

4.2.1 Community regeneration

Llangollen mooring basin



Project description

The project will create an off-line mooring basin with associated facilities for up to 32 boats. This will double the existing mooring capacity at Llangollen.

Project outputs

An additional:

- 2,900 boat days in Llangollen
- 42,500 day visitors
- 10,000 holiday visits
- £200,000 visitor spend each year
- 27 person years construction employment
  permanent jobs

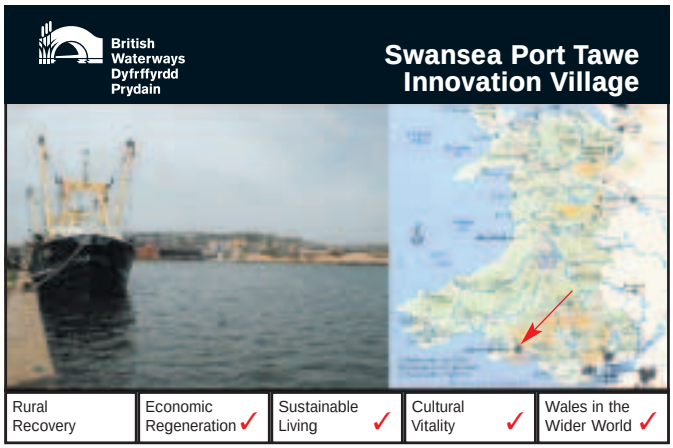
Potential funding partners

Welsh Development Agency
Denbighshire County Council
Wales Tourist Board
ERDF Objective 1
British Waterways

Funding required

£1.6 million

Swansea Port Tawe Innovation Village



Project description

The Port Tawe Innovation Village is a key element of the next era of the city's development and the establishment of Swansea's identity as a major 'Waterfront City'. A waterspace strategy will present a clear vision for the strategic development of this waterbody, within the framework of the Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Project outputs

- Identifies a balanced mix of complementary uses, based on British Waterways' and partners' commercial and leisure experience at similar locations in the UK and overseas
- Tests options against the physical limitations of the given waterspace (existing or new) and considers the relationship to the canal, river and coastal waters
- A base level solution that will bring life and vitality to the water and surrounding public spaces and which is flexible enough to accommodate changes in the overall master plan
- Promotes the regional and national significance of former docks, basins, the maritime quarters, new National Maritime Museum and other sites of industrial, cultural and historic importance

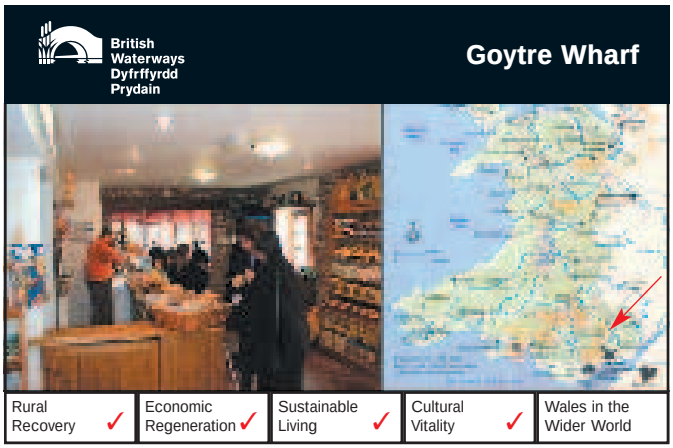
Potential project partners

Welsh Development Agency
British Waterways
Local Authorities
Private Sector
Local Community
Wales Tourist Board

Funding required

To be assessed

Goytre wharf



Project description

Goytre Wharf is a strategic site that is being developed as a focal point on the canal for leisure, recreation and business development.

Project outputs

- Protected waterways heritage and environment through sensitive design of new and existing functional facilities
- New commercial base for an existing boat hire and service facility
- Improved customer and visitor access especially for those with special needs
- Improved facilities for industrial heritage museum, educational visits and meetings
- New catering and retail outlet for Welsh products facilities
- Promotes activities for visitors of all ages
- Tourist information resource

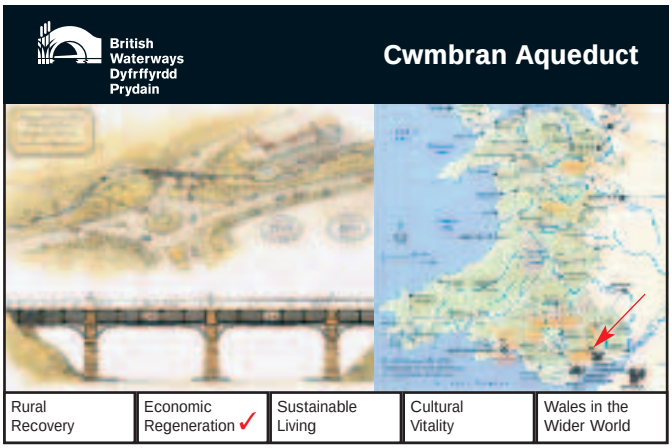
Partners

Local Authorities
Wales Tourist Board
Welsh Development Agency
European Funding Agencies
British Waterways
Private Investment
Assistance from the Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust
Goytre Boat Owners Association

Funding secured

£800,000

Cwmbran aqueduct



Project description

A major constraint in the scheme to complete restoration of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal by 2009 is the financial funding required to construct a new aqueduct over Green Meadow Way which dissected the route of the canal in 1960 as part of a new highway system for the new town development.

Project outputs

- Maximise the potential of inland waterway routes as a catalyst for urban and rural regeneration
- Provide towns along the canal with trans-national and regional links with the canal system of England, Ireland and the continent
- A contemporary functionally designed structure linked with a high quality town centre scheme will help local people improve their quality of life, assist local retail, hotels, and service industries to flourish and be attractive to visitors
- Waterways can contribute to both property led regeneration, tourism, and local benefits accruing from environmental and heritage enhancement

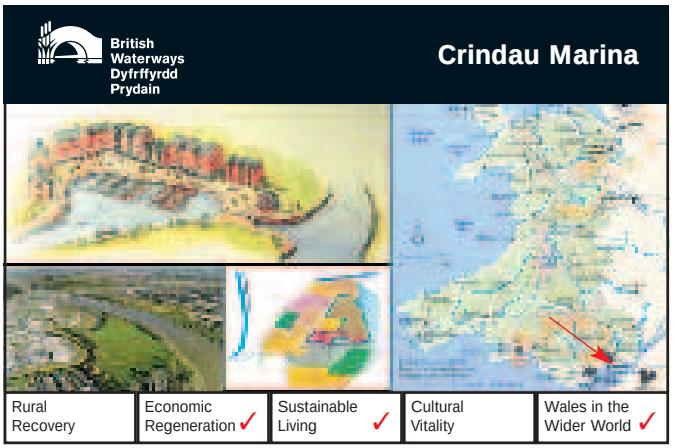
Potential project partners

Local Authority
Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust
British Waterways
Other funding partners being sought

Funding required

Circa £3 million

Crindau development



Project description

Waterways can be used to create new environments from old and tired urban areas. This is a contemporary functionally designed development and high quality environment.
It comprises a marina and associated mixed use development.
It provides a new waterway link to the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal.

Project outputs

- Helps local people improve their quality of life
- Development of a new water green way will ensure that the new environment meets the needs of local communities and creates a wildlife corridor joining urban and rural areas
- Provides local retail, hotel and service industries that are attractive to visitors
- Completes a navigable corridor to Brecon and provides Newport with trans-national, regional links with the canal system of England, Ireland and the continent
- Well designed water resource can alleviate urban flooding in the Crindau flood plain
- Improves water quality and habitat for aquatic life

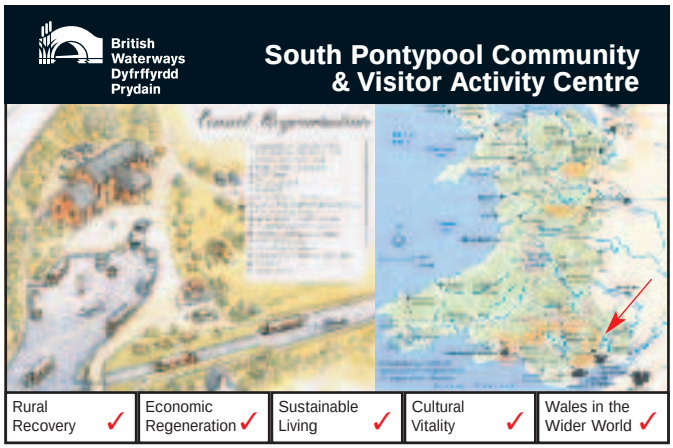
Potential project partners

Local Authorities
Wales Tourist Board
Welsh Development Agency
European Funding Agencies
Countryside Council for Wales
Private Developers
British Waterways

Funding required

£4 million

South Pontypool community


British Waterways Dyfrffyrdd Prydain
South Pontypool Community & Visitor Activity Centre
Rural Recovery ✓
Economic Regeneration ✓
Sustainable Living ✓
Cultural Vitality ✓
Wales in the Wider World ✓

Project description

Developing an attractive, well managed, but quiet section of canal at Pontymoile Basin will have the potential to enhance the visitors perspective of the waterways value, by creating an activity centre, providing canoeing, cycling, walking, hill climbing and accommodation. Realising these benefits will advantage local excluded groups, the wider community and visitors to the area.

Project outputs

- Regional centre for canoeing and other pursuits including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
- Better health through opportunities for walking and active recreation, to develop a healthy lifestyle
- Self-contained accommodation including affordable bunkhouse with supporting facilities attractive to all visitors
- Classroom, studio, games and computer room, secure bike/canoe lock up, gear store and kit shop
- Increased confidence and understanding, enabling visitors with special needs to take part in mainstream activities with confidence that facilities will meet their needs
- Increased social awareness of other facilities along the waterway corridor through a European National Parks Gate Way initiative

Partners

Local Authorities
Wales Tourist Board
Sports Council for Wales
Private Developers
British Waterways
Welsh Development Agency

Funding required Total £760k (Objective 1 Area - 75% support funding)

4.2.2 Access for all
Welshpool to Belan Locks

Project description

Improvement of towpath in this area of approximately 2km in length to provide better access and encourage more use of the towpath. The improvement scheme could be delivered by utilising a number of resources, including local volunteer community groups and probationary service groups, as well as agricultural training colleges. British Waterways would provide planning, training and supervision.

Project outputs

- Access for All, including creation of access for people of all abilities
- 2km of improved towpath
- Increased visitor numbers
- Sustainable transport route

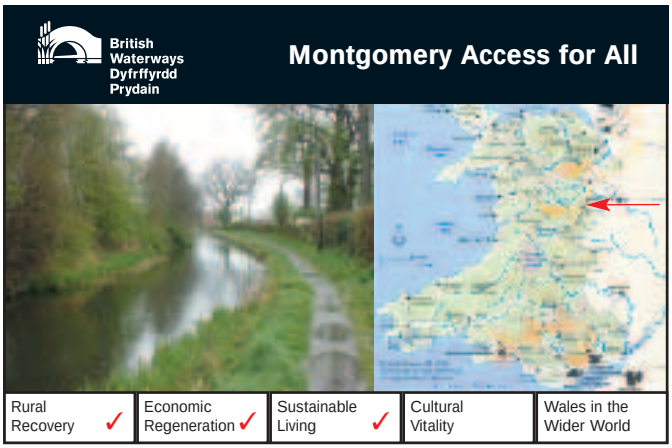
Potential project partners

Countryside Council for Wales
British Waterways
Powys County Council
Welshpool Partnership
Enfys – New Opportunities Fund
Environment Agency Wales

Funding required

£120,000

Montgomery Access for All



Project description

Improvement of the towpath and access points to encourage a wider use of the canal for leisure and recreation. The enhancement of the canalside could be delivered by utilising a variety of resources including both voluntary groups and the New Deal environmental task force. British Waterways will provide training and site supervision.

Project outputs

- Improved access for all along the canalside
- Improved access points onto the waterway
- Increased visitor numbers
- Sustainable transport route

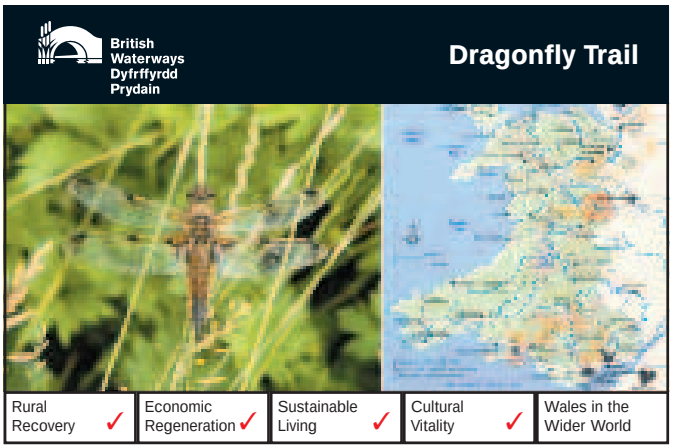
Potential project partners

Countryside Council for Wales
British Waterways
Powys County Council
Enfys – New Opportunities Fund
Environment Agency Wales

Funding required

£360,000

Dragonfly trail



Project description

This project will develop a trail centred round the town of Welshpool. It will provide an attraction for the town and the canal itself. The scheme has already received a great deal of local support and the required funding is now in place. Implementation of the trail will begin in spring 2003.

The project will include the following improvements:

- The refurbishment of Welshpool town lock
- The refurbishment of the towpath to provide a circular route linking the town centre with the canal
- The provision of public art to promote the trail
- Interpretation and information boards about the heritage of the Town, canal and environmental information boards
- The involvement of the local community and local schools

Project outputs

- Jobs created
- 24,000 increased visitor numbers
- 200m of upgraded towpath
- £53,000 additional visitor spend

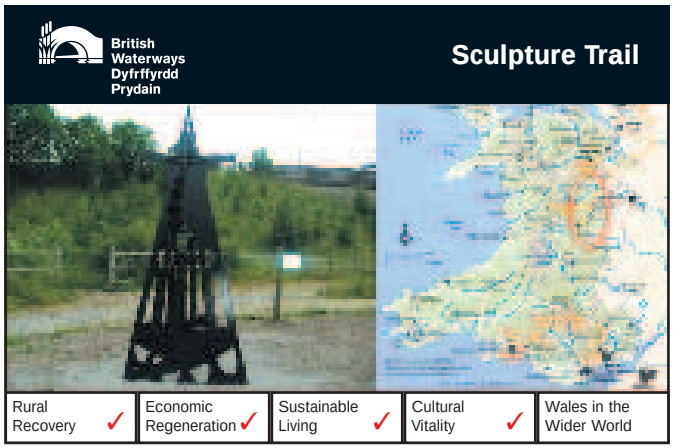
Funding partners

British Waterways
Powys County Council
Welshpool Partnership
Welsh Development Agency
Enfys – New Opportunities Fund
ERDF Objective 2
Environment Agency Wales

Funding secured

£130,000

Sculpture trail



Project description

To implement a long-term sculpture trail project, which would involve situating public artwork of flora and fauna that are indigenous to the Montgomery canal. Artists will be commissioned to work with members of the local community groups to develop themes and ideas for the creation of a number of sculptures. The local distinctiveness of the locations will be reflected through the chosen themes and the use of local materials.

Project outputs

- Engagement of local communities
- Local employment
- Education and training opportunities for local schools and community groups
- Heightened awareness and understanding of important flora and fauna along the canal corridor
- An attraction for tourism from outside the immediate area

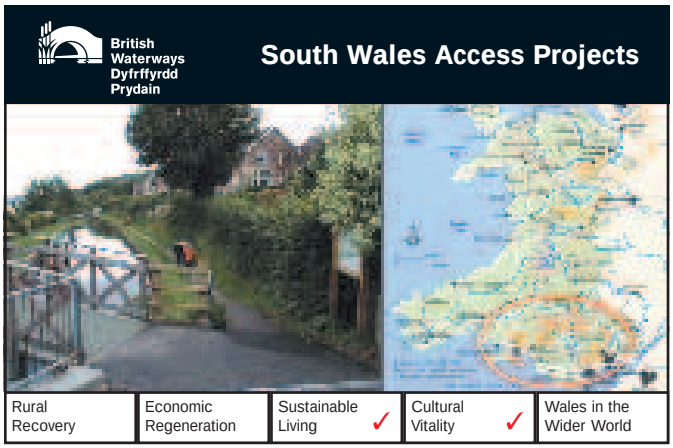
Potential project partners

Arts Council for Wales
Powys County Council
British Waterways
Local community
Countryside Council for Wales
Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust

Funding required

£100,000

South Wales access projects



Project description

A programme of sensitively designed towpath surfacing projects in partnership with local authorities, communities and access groups through a schedule of schemes. They will provide all weather surfaces and will identify strategically located access points where parking can be made available for special needs groups.

Project outputs

- Access survey
- Identifies strategically located entrance points and parking for special needs groups
- Highlights links with regional network of public rights of way
- Provides safe and sustainable surfacing through new design standards
- Meets local needs by linking safe routes to schools
- Creates a network of paths linking and improving community life
- Communicating the culture of the area through on site interpretation
- A visual link with the communities history which is often a source of great pride
- Connecting routes for cycle ways through a variety of countryside locations with land and water links
- Accessible towpaths are the source of opportunities to developing healthier life styles

Partners

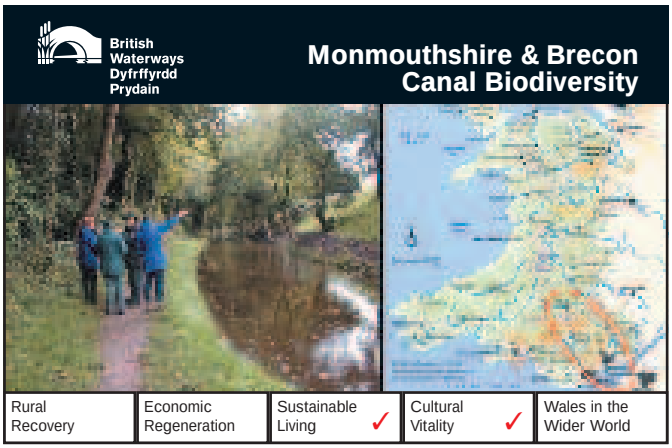
Local Authorities
Wales Tourist Board
European Funding Agencies
British Waterways

Funding required

£700,000

4.2.3 Environment

Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal biodiversity



Project description

Use ecological appraisal to develop a biodiversity action plan to ensure the canal's continued use as a sustainable recreational amenity. Deliver initiatives to protect special species and promote good ecological practices. The canal includes nationally important sites and many locally important habitats.

Project outputs

- Developing partnerships to produce bio-diversity action plans to conserve and enhance wildlife habitats and species
- Support to the 'Newport, Bettws Community' in their initiative to deliver a sustainable wetland project in partnership with the local authority and Barclays Bank
- Tree survey and management plan for the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal
- Combat the spread of invasive plant species
- Create conservation reserves and safeguard the habitat of waterway crustaceans and mammals
- Complete specific ecological appraisal of Fourteen Locks and the Crindau Pill

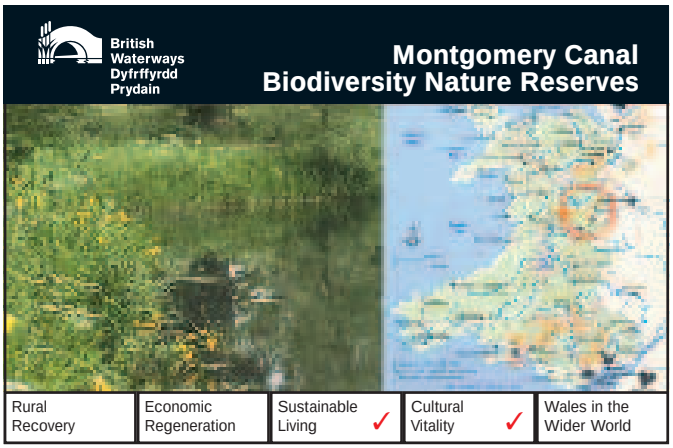
Partners

Local Authorities
European Funding Agency (Interreg IIc and IIIb)
Local Wildlife Trust
Volunteers
British Waterways

Funding required

£300,000

Montgomery Canal biodiversity nature reserves



Project description

A management plan has been developed by our ecology team to promote best practice with regard to the management and maintenance of the nature reserves at Wern, Brithdir and Whitehouse on the Welsh section of the Montgomery Canal. We propose to involve a local community group of either trainees or recognised training organisations, to effectively adopt the management and maintenance of the nature reserves.

Project outputs

- Local involvement with the development of the reserves
- Develop environmental education for small community groups
- Develop training skills on environmental management under expert supervision and guidance
- A sustainable maintenance regime, to ensure that the maximum benefits of the reserve are realised

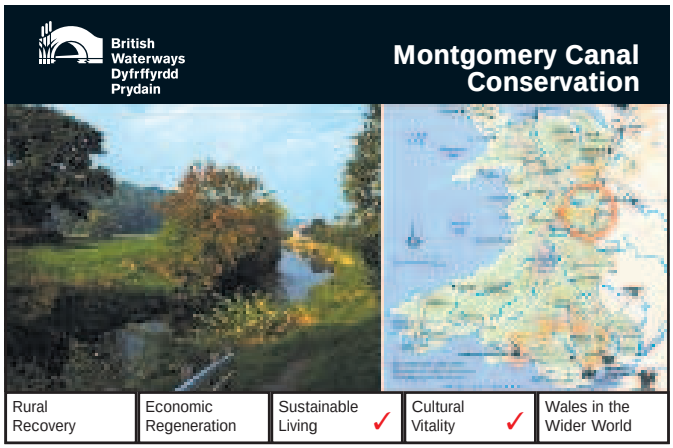
Project partners

Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust
British Waterways
Powys County Council
Countryside Council for Wales
Environment Agency Wales
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
The Friends of Montgomery Canal

Funding required

An annual cost of up to £15,000 to implement management regimes at each nature reserve.

Montgomery Canal conservation management strategy



Project description

To develop a Conservation Management Strategy to provide a framework for the sustainable restoration and regeneration of the canal. The CMS will cover both the natural and built environment of the waterway - the canal has a large number of listed structures along its length, which makes it a valuable resource in built heritage terms. A further aspect of the strategy is the active engagement of the communities along the canal in the restoration through community consensus building events led by the project manager. The Montgomery Canal supports nationally and internationally important aquatic species. 42kms of the waterway have been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for the richness and diversity of its aquatic ecology. Last year the part of the canal in Wales was designated a candidate site for Special Area of Conservation under the European Habitats Directive.

Project outputs

- A developed framework for the canal's future restoration and development. The CMS is the first stage of a wider project to restore the canal. This is a model project to develop best practice for future restoration schemes supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

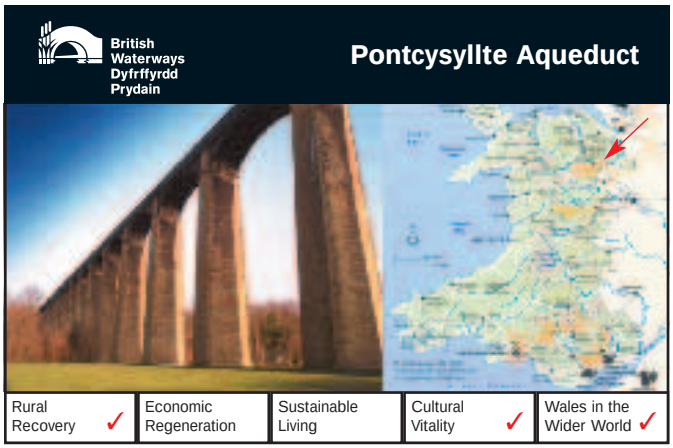
Project partners

Montgomery Canal Partnership
Heritage Lottery Fund
ERDF Objective 2
British Waterways

Funding secured

£148,000

4.2.4 Cultural tourism
Pontcysyllte Aqueduct



Project description

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is a Scheduled Ancient Monument listed Grade I for its important contribution to the development of canal engineering and the structural use of cast iron, and as an internationally renowned monument of the Industrial Revolution. It has 19 spans, which cross the River Dee at a height of 38m (125ft) and it is 307m (987ft) in length.

A British Waterways inspection showed that a refurbishment plan was needed. The trough needs resealing and the towpath needs reinstatement works costing about £1.4 million. The works are due for completion for the bi-centennial celebrations in 2005.

With secured funding from Adfywio and ERDF Objective 2, we are to begin work in spring 2003 to enhance Trevor Basin, a popular destination due to its close proximity to the aqueduct. At a cost of £170,000 the work will include access improvements, environmental enhancement, interpretation and community artwork.

Project outputs

- Secure the future of an internationally important heritage symbol of Wales
- Increase profile of the Llangollen Canal boosting tourism
- Increased visitor numbers and visitor spend
- Better understanding of heritage
- Further links in the local community

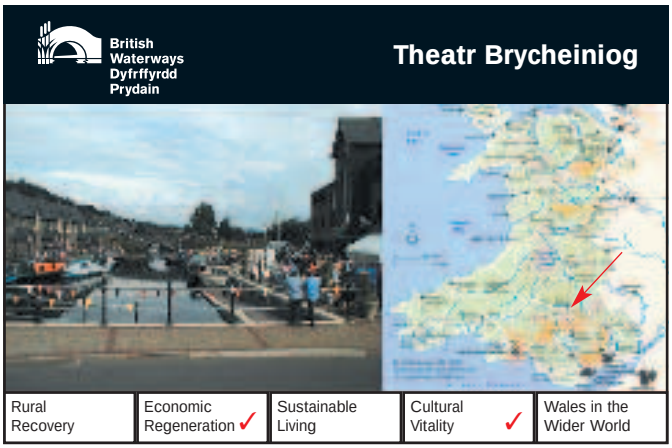
Project partners

CADW Welsh Historic Monuments
Wrexham County Borough Council
The Waterways Trust
British Waterways

Funding required

Project value £1.4 million

Theatr Brycheiniog



Project description

The Theatr Brycheiniog and Mooring Basin at Brecon are a functional and stunning canalside venue for the Arts and entertainment. It hosts drama, dance, music, language, comedy, children's shows, exhibitions, education and meetings.

Project outputs

- Focal destination point at the head of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal (Gateway to the Brecon Beacons National Park)
- An example of a partnership scheme where resources were pooled to achieve a successful result
- Multi functional design for community, regional and national functions
- World wide entertainment encompassing various customs and traditions
- Home for local and regional amateur groups active in the performing arts and other interests
- A focal point and facility which brings economic spend to this area of the National Parks
- Access to Wales' national cycle system from Holyhead to Cardiff (Lôn Las Cymru) and the Taff Trail

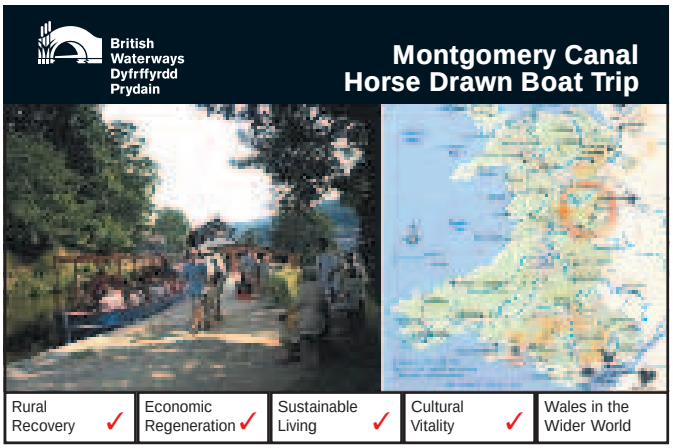
Partners

Powys County Council
Brecknock Borough Council
Local communities
Brecon Beacons National Parks
Arts Lottery
British Waterways

Funding secured

£6 million through County Council Strategic Development Initiative. Arts Lottery with support from British Waterways.

Horse drawn trip boat



Project description

The Montgomery Canal is ecologically important so British Waterways is exploring a number of alternative methods of propelling boats along the waterway. A successful horse-drawn boat operates out of the Llangollen Wharf on the Llangollen Canal, so we would seek to establish a horse-drawn boat from the market town of Welshpool. This will also provide a unique visitor experience for tourists and day trippers visiting the town.

Project outputs

- Increased heritage awareness of the canal and the local area
- An environmentally sustainable trip boat operation
- Active involvement of local groups
- Support of local business

Potential project partners

Canal operators
British Waterways
Montgomery Canal Partnership

Funding required

A cost of £150,000 to establish the horse-drawn boat operations with a running cost of £50,000 per annum.

Montgomery tourism links

Project description

The Montgomery Canal, Powis Castle and the Llanfair Steam Railway are all within close proximity to one another but operate separately and independently. If these three local attractions could come together to promote each other there are a number of benefits to be gained.

Project outputs

- Improved physical access between local operators
- Joint marketing schemes
- Boost to local economic regeneration from increased visitor numbers
- Local organisations working together to achieve a goal beneficial to themselves and the local community
- Increased recognition, nationally, of the attractions of the local area
- Increased awareness of the local heritage of the area

Potential project partners

British Waterways
Powis Castle
Llanfair Steam Railway
Wales Tourist Board
Welshpool Partnership
Powys County Council
Mid Wales Tourism
Other local tourist attractions and operators

Funding required

£120,000

4.2.5 Lifelong Learning
School links in Welshpool

Project description

Powysland Museum has regular visits from local school parties, tourists, and other interested groups. There is an opportunity to produce an education pack to develop links between the museum and local schools and these heritage, environmental and visitor attractions.

Project outputs

- Further links with the local community
- Support for school national curriculum projects based on environmental or heritage issues
- Production of an education pack to meet Key Stage 1 & 2 National Curriculum
- Increased profile of the Montgomery Canal over a wider area

Potential project partners

Powys County Council
British Waterways
Powysland Museum
Local schools
The Friends of Montgomery Canal

Funding required

£30,000

Heritage skills

Project description

Implement a training scheme involving BW staff and volunteers from the local community, in partnership with local authorities and training colleges or schemes, to provide a programme of refurbishment works related to developing woodworking and other heritage skills.

Project outputs

- Provision of a safe workshop area
- Development of heritage skills
- 'Hands on' experience to trainees under expert supervision
- Local community contribution to the ongoing restoration of the Montgomery canal

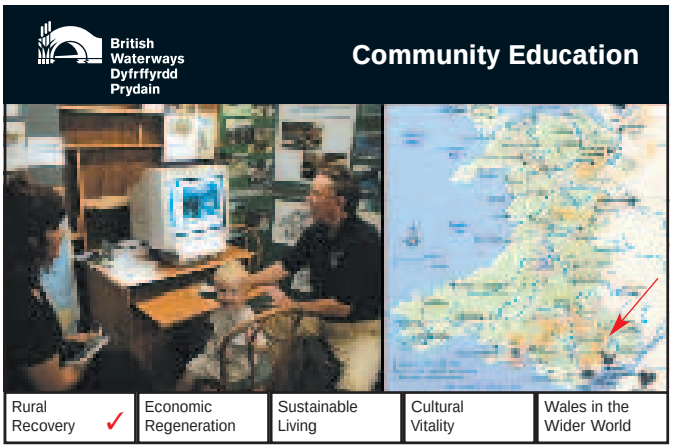
Potential partners

British Waterways
Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust
Shropshire Union Canal Society
Powys County Council
New Deal
The Waterways Trust

Funding required

£50,000 per annum

Community education



Project description

British Waterways is developing joint funded education initiatives with the local authorities to implement schemes focused around waterways, with a local and trans-national theme. The perception and understanding of the natural and cultural world that students of all ages gain through this project will influence a new generation of decision makers.

Project outputs

- Students will be encouraged to visit the countryside to understand how natural processes and human activities can affect and threaten the environment and our future quality of life
- The waterway environment at Goytre Wharf provides outdoor and indoor classrooms for education, recreation and research studies linked to the Valley's industrial past
- We are encouraging the use of waterway themes within schools and National Curriculum through partnership with officers from education services and other agencies to illustrate subjects through a new CD ROM program and to learn new skills linked to training and personal development
- The waterway experience enables those with learning difficulties to enjoy and develop through access to a cultural environment

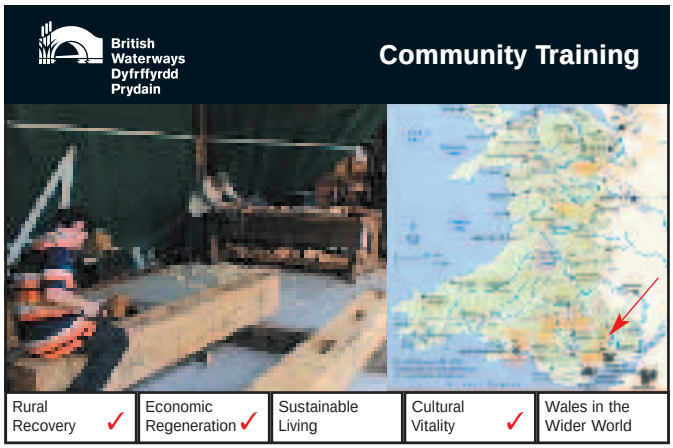
Partners

Local Authorities
Wales Tourist Board
European Funding Agencies
Volunteers
Monmouthshire, Brecon & Abergavenny Canals Trust
British Waterways
Forest Enterprise

Funding required

£300,000

Community training



Project description

A joint funded training initiative at Goytre Wharf, in support of the Government's New Deal Training Scheme. Provides hands-on experience in wood, metal, brick and stone work which are required in the engineering and building industries, whilst renovating derelict locks between Newport and Cwmbran.

Project outputs

- We are providing people of all ages through the New Deal Training Scheme with positive skills and knowledge to enhance their employment prospects whilst regenerating the waterway heritage
- We provide the opportunity for socially excluded members of the community to experience rural activities and encourage respect for our environment as an alternative to offending or anti-social behaviour
- The waterway experience enables those with learning difficulties to enjoy themselves and develop through access to new experiences within the waterway environment and regeneration schemes
- We are promoting learning activities within the waterway corridor to bring community residents, including those of minority, ethnic and all age groups to meet and share enjoyable experiences so making local waterways a focus of community pride

Partners

Local Authorities
European Funding Agencies
Government New Deal Training Board
British Waterways

Funding required

£500,000

To deliver the sustainable development of waterways in Wales, Welsh organisations need to develop effective working relationships with the private, public and voluntary sectors. By working in partnership, we can respond to the needs of local communities to help deliver economic, social and environmental benefits to the wider corridor. These benefits are achieved by bringing together a diverse range of funding from within partnerships and from external sources. British Waterways has a proven track record in securing funding from Welsh, national UK or European sources. Examples include:-

Adfywio

The regeneration of Trevor Basin, Llangollen Canal.

British Waterways

Using funds to develop moorings and other facilities for boaters.

Charitable Trusts and Foundations

Manifold Trust – contribution towards the restoration of Newhouse Lock on the Montgomery Canal.

The Waterways Trust

Interpretation at Trevor Basin, Llangollen Canal.

Countryside Council for Wales

Access improvements around Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Llangollen Canal.

Enfys (New Opportunities Fund)

Development of Dragonfly Trail – a circular trail for the local community in Welshpool.

European Regional Development Fund

Towpath improvements, Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal.

Heritage Lottery Fund

Development of Conservation Management Strategy, Montgomery Canal – to guide the sustainable restoration and ongoing management of this ecologically important waterway.

Interreg IIC

A joint project for the restoration and development of the Monmouthshire & Brecon and Montgomery Canals, in association with partners in Ireland, Belgium and The Netherlands.

Landfill Tax Credit Scheme

Restoration of Tamplin Locks, Newport.

Local authority funding

Monmouthshire County Council - towpath surfacing at Llanfoist near Abergavenny.

New Deal

Development of heritage skills – construction of lockgates in Newport area.

Private Investment Funds

Welsh Kitchens, Goytre Wharf – restaurant specialising in Welsh food.

Voluntary Sector Contributions

Restoration of Burgedin Lock, Montgomery Canal – Shropshire Union Canal Society funding and voluntary labour.

Wales Tourist Board

Access for people with disabilities at Talybont-on-Usk.

Welsh Development Agency

Development of new visitor mooring basin at Llangollen.

However, the overall market for funding is getting increasingly competitive. Successful fund raising needs a clear plan and targeted actions designed to demonstrate clear delivery of the objectives set out by the proposed funders.

To ensure the potential benefits of the waterways in Wales are effectively and efficiently realised, clear plans with measurable outputs need to be put in place to achieve a vision developed in Wales. To this end comments are sought on the document as a whole. In particular answers to the following questions are sought. It would be helpful if you could set out your reasons for your views.

1. Is the strategic approach outlined in this document the right one? In particular:
   a. Are all the right projects included? If no, which other projects should be taken into account?
   b. What is the most appropriate timescale to deliver the projects?

2. How could the scope of the document be extended? For example
   a. What other waterways and waterspaces should be included?
   b. What other plans or projects should be included?

3. How should we prioritise actions between themes (economic regeneration, rural recovery, sustainable living, cultural vitality, Wales in the wider world) and between projects?

4. To get the most from our work we need to ensure synergy between this vision and plan and other plans and programmes.
   a. What other organisations' plans and programmes should be taken into account?
   b. Would a working group containing the main navigation authorities, ASPBs, local authorities and representatives of the National Assembly for Wales be an effective way to give focus to increased activity?
   c. What would be the most appropriate structure and working methodology for this group?
   d. Which other organisations, structures and mechanisms should the group relate to?

British Waterways will produce a report on the consultation with recommendations for future action, and report its findings to the Minister for Environment.

Timetable

The deadline for responses to this consultation is Friday 20 June 2003.

For options on returning your comments, please refer to the contact details in the consultation response form or visit:

www.britishwaterways.co.uk/Wales

7.1 National Assembly for Wales

7.1.1 Plan for Wales and Learning to Live Differently

Waterways projects can help towards achieving the following commitments contained in *A Plan for Wales*[1].

- A Modern Economy
  - Help communities help themselves[2]
    - FMD recovery plan
  - To set a fresh direction[3]
    - Make the best use of Wales' natural environment respecting sustainable development[4]
  - Wales and the world[5]
    - Promote Wales internationally and further develop tourism in Wales
    - Maximise opportunities available as a result of the Ryder Cup coming to Wales in 2010
- Where we live[6]
  - To improve our environment
    - Enhance biodiversity
    - Improve public access…maximise potential community benefits
    - Support sustainable development projects with the National Parks
  - Conserve our historic environment
    - Raise awareness of historic landscape
    - Protect important sites
    - Grant-aid conservation of historic buildings, sites and monuments
    - Conserve and present to the public the historic monuments in state care
- Support Rural Wales[7]
  - Rural development
    - Develop income and employment in sectors other than agriculture, through the Rural Development Plan and the use of European Structural Funds
    - Help rural post offices, shops and other small businesses
    - Promote community regeneration and capacity building in rural areas
  - Helping the land based economy
    - Work with partners to diversify the economic base through NEDS and EU and other funds

7.1.2 A Winning Wales

This plan will help towards the achievement of the selected targets below in the National Economic Development Strategy – *A Winning Wales.*

- Supporting business[8]
  - Ensure ESF used to best effect
- Setting a fresh direction[9]
  - Enhance the attractiveness of the Welsh countryside
- Establishing Wales in the World[10]
  - Implement WTB Tourism Strategy – Achieving our Potential
- Creating Strong Communities[11]
  - Ensure regeneration funds used to maximum effect
  - Consider rolling our sub-regional regeneration frameworks
- Supporting Rural Wales[12]
  - Implement the Rural Development Plan
  - Increase emphasis on agri-environmental schemes
- Implement the Rural Recovery Plan[13]

7.1.3 Rural Development Plan

Waterways can help with the following key priorities in the Rural Development Plan.[14]

- Priority 1 – To create stronger agriculture and forestry sectors
  - Diversification to provide multiple activities or alternative incomes
    - Encouragement for tourist and craft activities
- Priority 2 – To improve economic competitiveness of rural communities and areas
- Priority 3 – To maintain and protect the environment and rural heritage[15]
  - Help land use be more sustainable
  - Improve access to services, support community regeneration and promote social inclusion[16]

7.1.4 Creative Future

Waterways can help achieve the objectives in the strategy, in particular in the following areas.

- *Priority Action Plan 4 – Culture and Communities*[17]
  - Fundamental role of Local Authorities
  - Community regeneration plans should include cultural objectives
- *Priority Action Plan 6 – Culture and the Economy*[18]
  - Culture can be a springboard for economic prosperity
  - Cultural Tourism – history, language culture and way of life are distinct assets
  - Rural and industrial heritage help with positioning Wales
  - WTB Cultural Tourism Strategy[19]
    - Make more accessible

1 See generally Section 3
2 Ibid and Sections 4.2.1, 4.2.4
3 Ibid
4 Ibid and Section 4.2.3
5 See Sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4.2, 4.2.4
6 See Sections 3, 4.2.2, 4.2.3
7 Ibid and Section 4.2
8 See Section 3
9 Ibid and Section 4.2
10 See specially Section 3.2
11 See Section 3 and specially Section 4.2.1
12 Ibid and Section 4.2
13 Ibid
14 Ibid
15 See specifically Section 4.2.3
16 See specifically Sections 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.5
17 See Sections 3 and 4.2.1
18 See Section 3 and specially Section 4.2.4
19 See Section 2.2.1

- Add value to visitor experience
- Develop product
- Research and develop niche markets

7.2 Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies

7.2.1 Wales Tourist Board

Waterways can help meet the following objectives in the Wales Tourist Board strategy *Achieving Our Potential* and of the *Adfywio Scheme* for rural recovery for tourism[20].

- Objective 1 – To market Wales more effectively as an attractive all year round tourism destination
- Objective 2 – To exceed the expectations of visitors to Wales by providing high standards and ensuring that investment in tourism is responsive to their changing needs
- Objective 4 – To embrace a sustainable approach to tourism development which benefits society, involves local communities and enhances Wales' unique environmental and cultural assets

As cultural assets waterways have the ability to contribute to the achievement of the WTB's Cultural Tourism Strategy aims to: make culture more accessible[21], to add value to the visitor experience, to develop the cultural tourism product by developing the waterway niche market[22].

7.2.2 Welsh Development Agency

Waterways can particularly help in relation to the WDA's sustainable development strategy in the following areas.

- Building Sustainable Communities[23]
  - Use of Welsh products /services
  - Accessibility[24]
  - Improve vitality, attractiveness and viability of town centres
  - Reuse of brown field sites and old buildings
  - Design best practise for biodiversity and landscape[25]
- Managing Environment and resources
  - Minimise impacts
  - Create benefits where possible

In terms of the WDA's Corporate Plan waterways can make a contribution to:

- Supporting the Rural Economy[26]
  - Farm diversification
  - Environmental management
  - Tourism
  - Micro-businesses
- Support for competitive communities[27]
  - Partnership with LA's to deliver holistic community regeneration plans
- Market Town and Small Towns and Villages Initiatives[28]

7.2.3 Countryside Council for Wales

Waterways can help to achieve the following strategic objectives set out in *A Better Wales – The Natural Environment of Wales in 2010*[29].

- A Wales that is more distinctive in landscape character and includes greater biodiversity
  - Expanded wetlands
  - Sustainable farming
  - More nature reserves and green spaces
  - Remove invasive species where they compromise natural habitats, detract from character and cause loss of amenity
  - Restore and better manage hedgerows adding to landscape value
- That the land and sea supports more wildlife and their habitats[30]
  - Improve survival of species under threat, including
    - Water vole
    - Floating water plantain (British Waterways is lead partner for this species)
  - Local nature reserves
- Restoration work to reduce fragmentation of habitats
  - Developments will be done in ways that minimise impacts on and maximise opportunities for habitats and species
- That economic development respects the natural environment including its cultural and historic aspects
  - Greater understanding of interrelationships between environment, economy and social objectives
  - Strengthen tourism by statutory right of access[31]
    - Opening Glyndwr's Way
    - Develop tourism potential of nature reserves and walking trails
    - Develop eco-tourism
- A Wales in which there is greater access to countryside and coast for all its people and its visitors, giving enjoyment and well being[32].
  - Countryside and Rights of Way Act implementation
  - Access for all projects
  - More urban nature reserves and green spaces

20 See generally Sections 3 and 4
21 See Sections 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.4
22 Ibid
23 See generally Section 4.2.1
24 See specially Section 4.2.2
25 See specially Section 4.2.3
26 See Sections 3, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4
27 See Sections 3.3 and 4.2.1
28 See generally Sections 3.4 and 4
29 A feature of all work and see Section 4.2.3
30 Ibid and as further described in the CCW's Sustainable Development Action Plan
31 See specially Sections 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4
32 See specially Section 4.2.2

Summary of Organisations

British Waterways manages and cares for a 2000-mile network of canals and navigable rivers across Wales, Scotland and England. It works with a broad range of public, private and voluntary sector partners to improve quality of life through delivering social, economic and environmental benefits.

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments' mission is to protect, conserve, and to promote an appreciation of the built heritage of Wales. Cadw has responsibility for the conservation, presentation, and promotion of the built heritage of Wales. It secures the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings, grant aids the repair of ancient monuments and historic buildings and manages 129 ancient monuments in Wales in direct State care.

The **Countryside Council for Wales** is the statutory advisor to Government on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment throughout Wales and its inshore waters.

Environment Agency Wales is part of the Environment Agency for England and Wales. It has major statutory responsibilities for the regulation, monitoring and management of land, water and air environments and processes that affect them. Its main functions include integrated pollution prevention and control, waste regulation, flood defence, water resources, fisheries, recreation, conservation and navigation.

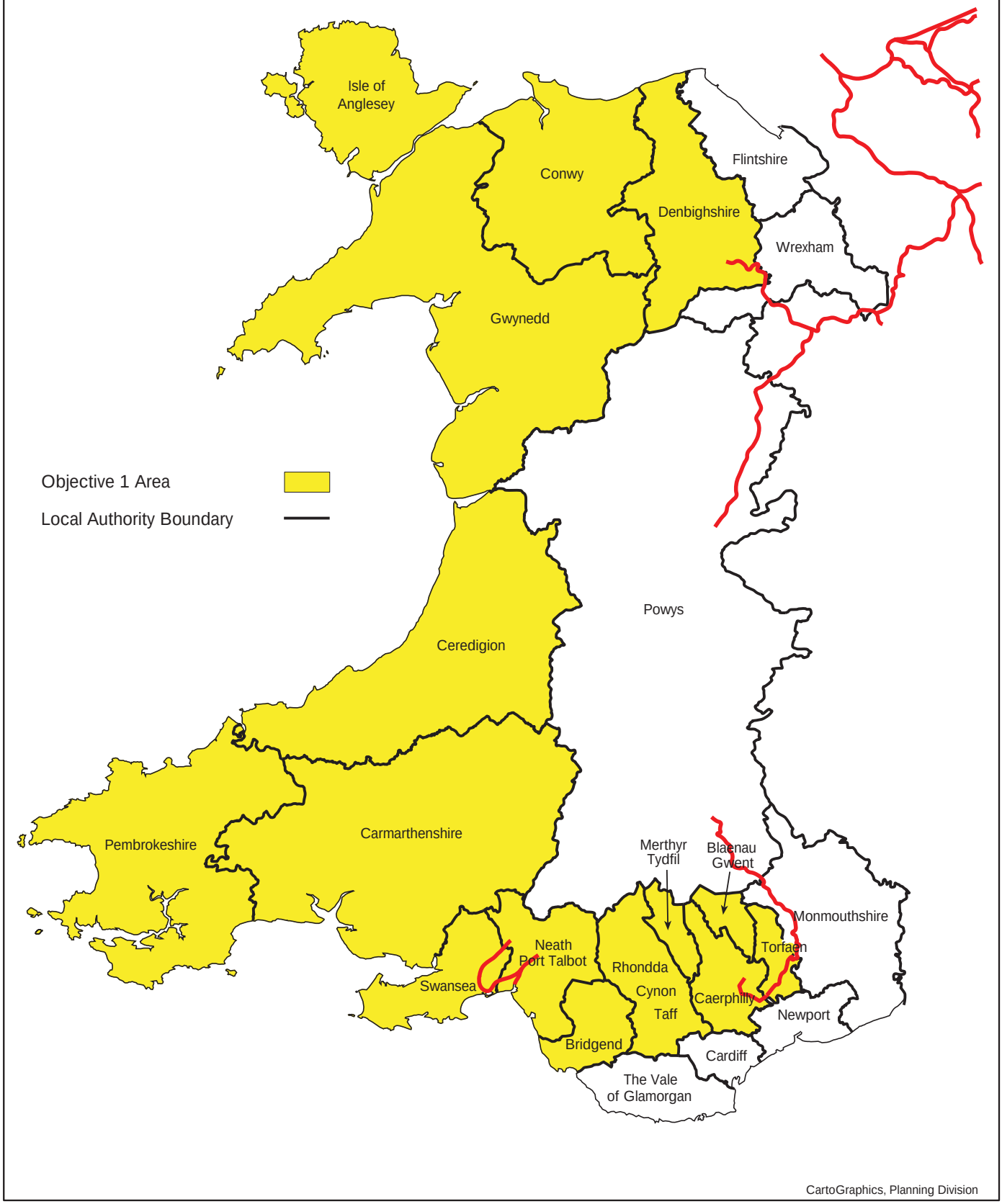
The **Wales Tourist Board** aims to encourage visitors to Wales and to promote the provision and improvement of tourist facilities and amenities.

The **Welsh Development Agency** is in business to provide solutions for companies in Wales to improve their competitiveness though enhanced technology and innovation, creating a knowledge driven economy.

OUTLINE OF RESTORATION SCHEDULES

Project		Delivery time			
Item		2002	2003-2005	2005 +	Continuing
Montgomery Canal Restoration					
Conservation Management Strategy	Prepare	✓	✓		
	Implement	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Environment Impact Assessments	✓	✓	✓	✓
Create/manage new nature reserves	Guilsfield		✓		✓
	Others			✓	✓
Introduce and operate new leisure facilities	Burgedin			✓	✓
	Maesbury		✓		✓
	Llanymynech			✓	✓
	Welshpool		✓		✓
Engineering works	Shropshire Phase 3a	✓			
	Shropshire Phase 3b-4a		✓		
	Shropshire Phase 4b-5b			✓	
	Powys - Ardleen		✓		
	Powys – Maerdy Crossing, Channels, Vrnwy, Flood and Wern aqueducts, Walls Bridge and Tannat Feeder			✓	
Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Restoration					
Environment Impact Assessments		✓	✓	✓	✓
Phase 1	Newport to Ty Coch	✓	✓		
Phase 2	Crindau Pill Marina			✓	
Phase 3	Reconstruction from Ty Coch to Five Locks Cwmbran		✓	✓	
Phase 4	Cwmbran Aqueduct			✓	
Phase 5	Crumlin Arm		✓	✓	
Marketing		✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring		✓	✓	✓	✓

Objective One Programme Area 2000-2006



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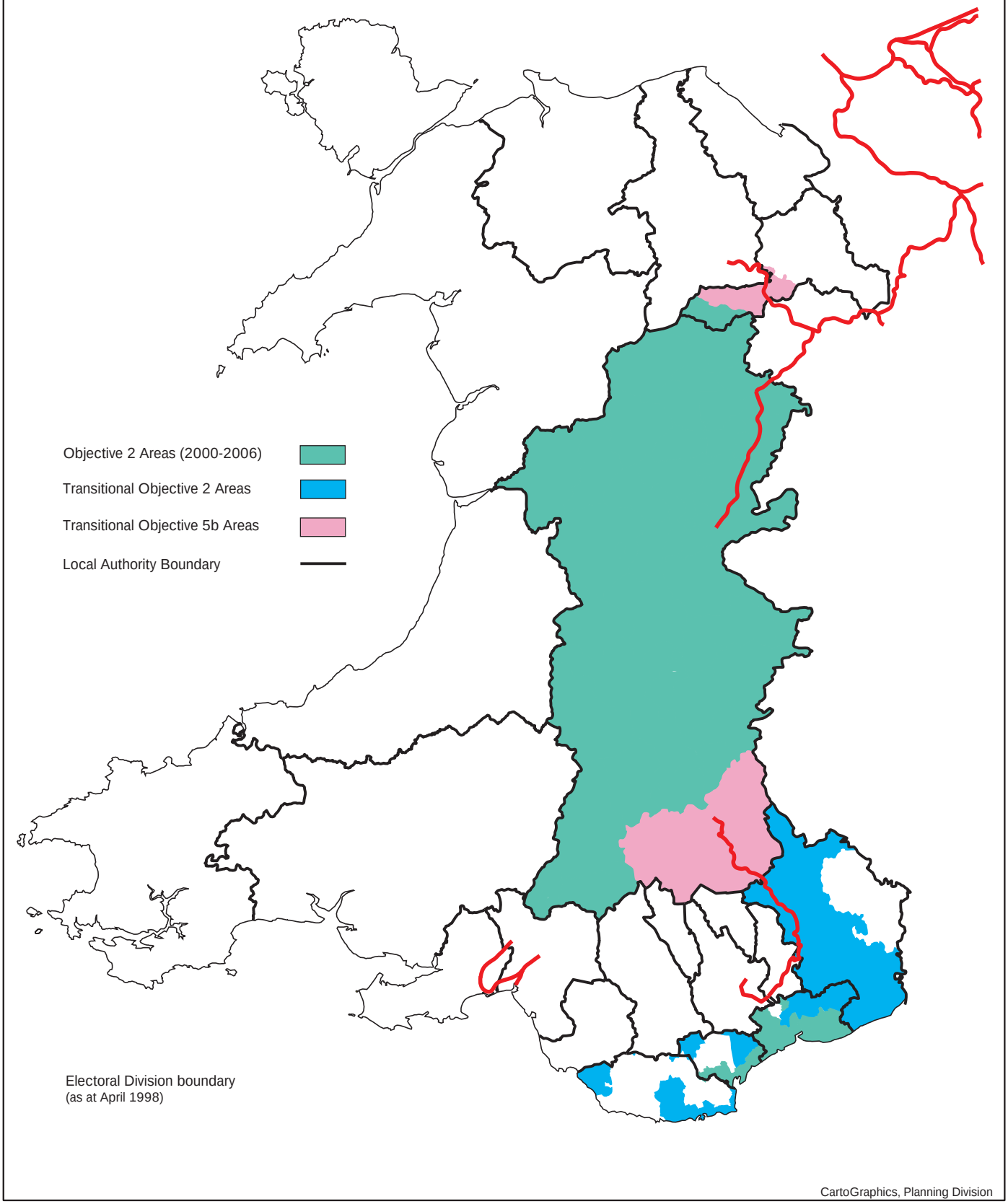
Objective Two Programme Areas 2000-2006 and Transitional Programme Areas



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